

Claims

1. A process for the preparation of thermostable, discrete, solid particles containing lactoferrin embedded in a protein- and/or starch-based carrier matrix which process is characterized by the steps of
 - (a) adding to a horizontal screw extruder the carrier matrix, lactoferrin and, optionally, an internal lubricant,
 - (b) mixing these components in the extruder under low shear and temperature conditions to obtain a homogeneous formable mixture,
 - 10 (c) extruding and cutting said formable mixture into pieces and, optionally,
 - (d) drying said pieces.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the carrier matrix comprises wheat starch and durum wheat flour.
- 15 3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein lactoferrin is added in form of an aqueous solution or a dry powder.
4. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 – 3 wherein a vegetable oil is used as internal lubricant.
- 20 5. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 – 4 wherein the temperature in the extruder under working conditions is below about 60°C.
- 25 6. Thermostable, discrete, solid particles containing lactoferrin embedded in a protein- and/or starch-based carrier matrix.
7. Solid particles according to claim 6, obtained by a process as claimed in any one of claims 1 – 5.
- 30 8. Solid particles according to claim 6 or claim 7 for use as animal feed or food supplements.
9. A food or animal feed supplement composition on the basis of solid particles according to claims 6 - 8.
10. A food or an animal feed supplemented with a composition as claimed in claim 9.